

HORIZON 2020 and ERASMUS+ SEMINAR

MAURITIUS PARTICIPATION IN THE ACP SUGAR RESEARCH PROGRAMME



European Union



ACP-SRP

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ACP
Group of
States

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Implementation of 13 projects from 2010 to 2015 by

- Mauritius Sugarcane Industry Research Institute (MSIRI) – 8 projects
 - Sugar Research Institute Fiji (SRIF) – 2
 - Swaziland Sugar Association (SSA) – 1 project
 - West Indies Central Sugar Cane Breeding Station (WICSCBS) – 1 project
 - Sugar Industry Research Institute Jamaica (SIRIJ) – 1 project
- ✦ 14 associate partners (academia, research centres, industry)

Goal: Enhance capability of the sugar industry in ACP countries to make the transition to a more open and less protected sugar market

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Successful outcome of programme: It has enabled scientific progress to allow the sugar cane industry to have access to technologies that are expected:

- to increase productivity
- reduce cost of production
- contribute in meeting the major challenges ahead
- ensuring the sustainability of the Mauritian cane industry and that of ACP States

Dissemination of results

- Scientific publications
- Attendance of workshops, conferences
- Reports
- Brochures
- Software distribution

Lessons learnt/problems encountered

- Implementing technical and scientific activities were not a problem
- Difficulties faced were of administrative and financial nature
- EU rules not interpreted correctly by all concerned
- Important cash co-contribution expected from MSIRI in the programme, when initially interpreted as in kind contribution
- Delays Mauritius-ACP Secretariat-EU in processing of financial reports and consequently: delays in funds disbursement
- Partners in projects were not funded in time and one partner withdrew from one project
- Obtaining audited accounts and technical reports from partners was lengthy

Benefits to MSIRI/Mauritius

- **Enhanced technical capacity:** procurement of a number of state of art equipment for chemical analytical work and cane quality parameters
- **Upgrading of infrastructure for research**
- **Capacity building and international exposure:** staff received training in different fields and opportunity to attend conferences to present research findings
- **Exposure/experience to research environment** for young Mauritian graduates through contractual employment
- **Consultancy visits /technology transfer** to other sugar cane producing countries

Benefits to MSIRI/Mauritius

- Knowledge and experience in conducting EU funded projects (scientific, administrative and financial handling)
- Enhanced scientific knowledge of the sugar cane plant

Conclusion

Benefits by far outweighed the
difficulties encountered



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Thank you for listening

